

<b>DRAFT</b>
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**Improving Student Achievement**

**Resolution Recommending Passing Scores for Core 40 Biology**

**September 20, 2007**

Whereas the Education Roundtable has confirmed its belief in high academic standards and that these high standards should be reflected in rigorous assessments; and

Whereas IC 20-1-20.5-1 et seq., calls upon Indiana's Education Roundtable to review and recommend content, format, and passing scores of the Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus (ISTEP+) assessments; and

Whereas the federal No Child Left Behind Act requires students be assessed for science during their high school years; and

Whereas Indiana's Core 40 Biology End-of-Course Assessment will be used to meet this accountability requirement; and

Whereas the Education Roundtable has been asked to formally participate in the passing score setting process for the Core 40 Biology End-of-Course Assessment using the definitions and processes previously adopted for ISTEP+; and

Whereas the Education Roundtable has resolved ISTEP+ passing scores should be set using definitions adopted in *Resolution Clarifying ISTEP+ "Pass" and "Pass-Plus" Score Definitions* dated April 8, 2003 and according to *Resolution Adopting Guidelines for Setting ISTEP+ Passing Scores* dated October 12, 2004; and

Whereas the Education Roundtable considered information provided by Indiana teachers, national assessment experts, and the Indiana Department of Education in this process.

Now, therefore, the Education Roundtable recommends to the State Board of Education that:

**For the purposes of notifying students, parents, and schools of Core 40 Biology End-of-Course Assessment results, and determining remediation funding, the following passing scale scores will be used:**

**Passing Scores for Core 40 Biology**

**Pass**

509

**Pass+**

646